

CASE NOTES

TRAUMATIC CATARACT*

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A CASE of traumatic cataract is here presented in view of the rarity of spontaneous clearing of the opacity. The lens becomes opaque if any insult is inflicted upon it, but few cases have been reported in which the lens has regained its transparency after becoming opaque as a result of trauma. Whiting (1916) reported a case in which an opacity of the anterior cortex of the lens due to trauma cleared up in 13 days in the right eye and in 9 days in the left eye. No other record could be traced in the literature.

Case Report

A girl aged 12 was struck by a thorn in the left eye while playing at school on December 28, 1956. She was admitted to the Sarojini Naidu Hospital, Agra, 2 days later.

Examination.—Visual acuity was 6/6 in the right eye, in which nothing abnormal was seen. In the left eye there was only perception of light. The lids were oedematous, the conjunctiva was congested, and there was marked circumcorneal injection. The cornea was oedematous. There was a fluorescein stain at 7 o'clock 2 mm. above the limbus at the site of injury.

One-third of the anterior chamber was filled with blood, and the mother reported that on the day of the injury it had been full of blood and was gradually clearing up.

The iris was muddy, and the pupil slightly contracted with poor reaction to light.

The lens appeared normal, but because of hyphaema this finding was not very definite.

The ocular tension was raised.

Treatment.—Subconjunctival injection of 10,000 units streptomycin and 100,000 units penicillin was given daily for 3 days. Atropine ointment 1 per cent. was applied three times a day for 3 days, and then once a day till the patient was cured. Hydrocortisone ointment 1 per cent. was started 3 days after admission, was continued till the eye became completely white, and was later slowly withdrawn.

On the second day, the pupil was dilated under a mydriatic. The blood in the anterior chamber had cleared, and the anterior surface of the lens showed a few black pigment spots. The vision of the eye had improved.

Progress.—After 3 days the anterior chamber had cleared completely and the blood had resorbed.

The anterior surface of the lens still showed a few pigment spots, and few discrete opacities were seen beneath the anterior epithelium. These opacities were axial (Fig. 1).

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4.1.57: The lenticular opacities in the axial region had increased and the opacities had enlarged and were touching one another. The visual acuity was counting fingers at 4 m. The patient was advised to continue the treatment at home and to visit the hospital twice a week (Fig. 2).

8.1.57: The lenticular opacities had increased, and now filled the whole of the pupillary area. Visual acuity was counting fingers at 2 m. distance (Fig. 3).

11.1.57: No change.

15.1.57: The mother reported that the child's vision had improved. The opacity had diminished, and a small area of the pupil had become transparent (Fig. 4).

20.1.57: A few discrete opacities remained in the axial area of the lens. The visual acuity was 6/24 (Fig. 5).

25.1.57: No lenticular opacities were seen. The fundus reflex was perfect, and the visual acuity was to 6/6 pt.

The only corneal opacity was seen at the point where the thorn had struck the eye. Otherwise the eye appeared to be perfectly normal.

Summary

A case is reported in which traumatic cataract after a thorn injury cleared up completely within 10 days.

REFERENCE

WHITING, M. H. (1916). *Trans. ophthal. Soc. U.K.*, **36**, 167.